



CLEAR-PAC Customs Initiative

Update: November 2004

Collaboration with Russian Federal Customs Continues

CLEAR-PAC entered a new phase in its development following a landmark agreement of cooperation with Russian Federal Customs signed on May 17, 2004 by Leonid Lozbenko, First Deputy Head of Customs, and Carol Vipperman, FRAEC President. This agreement represents Russian Customs' endorsement of CLEAR-PAC and support for its further development and deployment at all of Russia's seaports.

A joint FRAEC-Customs working group was established to ensure that the agreement's objective of nationwide implementation is carried out. It consists of key customs officials, including Leonid Ukhlinov, Head of the Directorate of Information Technology and principal figure in Russia's national customs modernization program and the World Bank funded Customs Modernization Project. The working group's primary purpose is to coordinate and monitor tasks of a joint work plan that was approved not only by Mr. Ukhlinov, but other top level customs officials, such as Anatolii Galaktionov, Head of the Directorate of Organization of Customs Control, Sergei Gusev, Director of the Main Scientific Information Computing Center of Federal Customs, and Viktor Vuglyar, Head of the Far East Customs Administration.

Goran Latkovic, CLEAR-PAC Program Director, met with Mr. Ukhlinov and key working group members this fall to discuss important issues, such as how Customs envisions CLEAR-PAC in its new role as a nationwide system and the progress being made in finalizing new technical specifications. There was some delay in preparing these requirements due to reorganization within Customs this summer. However, it is anticipated that they will be finalized before the end of the year at which time new software development can begin.

About CLEAR-PAC

CLEAR-PAC, a U.S. Department of Commerce funded program, has been implemented by the Seattle-based non-profit Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC) since its inception in 1995. It is an innovative U.S.-Russia customs initiative developed as an automated customs clearance tool that provides the only electronic link between Russian Customs and the trade community. This system, endorsed by top levels at Russian Customs, creates an expedited, efficient, and transparent customs clearance process in Russia.



Foundation for Russian American Economic Cooperation (FRAEC)
2601 Fourth Avenue, #310, Seattle, WA 98121
Tel. 206.443.1935
clear-pac@fraec.org